



## **CPMA Statement on Announcement of US-Mexico Trade Agreement**

August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018 (Ottawa, ON) – The Canadian Produce Marketing Association (CPMA) is encouraged by today’s announcement that the United States and Mexico have come to an understanding on bilateral trade issues within the context of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) renegotiations. Additionally, CPMA was reassured by the Mexican President’s continued reference to including Canada in future discussions and moving towards a new trilateral trade agreement given the integration of trade between NAFTA countries.

Canadian negotiators have been steadfast in their support for the industry and are well briefed on issues affecting fresh produce, including the seasonality provision, the elimination of Chapter 19, and the sunset clause. It is our understanding that the seasonality provision has been removed from the US-Mexico agreement and will not be part of the discussions moving forward. CPMA has long advocated for the removal of the seasonality provision and is pleased that it will not be a feature of a future trilateral agreement.

CPMA will continue to work with Canadian negotiators as they re-engage in formal negotiations with the U.S. reflecting the need for a trilateral agreement to preserve the competitiveness of the North American fresh fruit and vegetable supply chain.

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### **About the Canadian Produce Marketing Association (CPMA):**

Based in Ottawa, Ontario, CPMA is a not-for-profit organization that represents a diverse membership made up of every segment of the produce industry supply chain who are responsible for 90% of the fresh fruit and vegetable sales in Canada. CPMA is fortunate to represent a sector that is both a significant economic driver for communities and that also improves the health and productivity of Canadians.